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Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 20. Regular programme of technical cooperation

1. At its 21st meeting, on 31 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 20, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed their support for the proposals under this section. They stressed that the proposed activities and resources should be considered as complementary to the activities and resources under other related budget sections.

3. Some delegations noted the difficulty in identifying activities in the section and felt that more detailed information should be provided in that respect. In particular, they sought assurances that the bulk of the money spent under this programme would be devoted to the least developed and poorest countries. Other delegations recognized that the activities under this section were, by nature, difficult to programme.

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4. Some delegations underlined that activities related to technical cooperation should be financed by extrabudgetary resources. Other delegations considered that the activities under section 20 contributed to the development of developing countries and expressed their support for the financing of these activities through the regular budget in order to ensure that they are placed on a sound and assured financial basis.

5. Some delegations queried the relationship of the activities under this section with similar activities carried out by other United Nations programmes and sought assurance that there would be no overlapping or duplication of efforts in this regard. Some delegations advocated that this programme should be fundamentally reviewed and modified in order to respond more fully to the current requirements for technical cooperation. Other delegations stressed that this section was useful and provided the necessary flexibility to satisfy the emerging priorities of developing countries.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 20, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.